nexus of mafia and medical professionals in running beggar rackets in major metropolis who amputate healthy limbs of poor people and place them at vantage points in cities for begging;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the actions initiated, if any, in follow-up of the revelations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The details of the case are being collected.

Facilities for disabled persons

2547. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken under chapter 8 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Rights and full Participation) Act, 1995 for installation of audio signals at red lights in the public roads, creating curb cuts and slopes in pavements for easy access of wheelchair users and engraving the surface of Zebra crossing for the blind and those with law vision and similar infrastructure at ATMs etc.;

(b) whether civic agencies work in reverse order and create obstacles for these persons by raising the height of footpath and central verge on the roads disproportionately; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 stipulates that the appropriate Government and the local authorities shall within the limits of their economic capacity and development provide for installation of auditory signals at the red lights and engraving on the surface of the zebra crossing on the public roads for the benefit of persons with visual impairment and causing curb cuts and slopes to be made in pavements for the easy access to wheelchair users. The term "appropriate governments", has been defined in Section 2(a) of the Act to include the Central Government as well as State Governments and the local authorities. Implementations

of the provision relating to barrier free access for persons with disabilities on public roads comes under the purview of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations and local authorities. The Government of India have issued instructions to all the executing agencies to make necessary arrangements for adopting barrier free features on the roads constructed/maintained by them.

Proposals from Chhattisgarh under coaching and allied scheme

†2548. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the date since when the approval of the proposal for aid sought by Chhattisgarh Government under coaching and allied schemes is pending;

(b) the reasons for its pendency;

(c) whether it is a fact that Merit Upgradation Scheme is also being implemented under the coaching and allied scheme for talented students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(d) if so, whether any evaluation of this scheme has been made; and

(e) the details of achievement made under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Coaching and Allied for SCs, OBCs and Minorities.

This Ministry has not received proposal of Government of Chhattisgarh under the centrally sponsored scheme of coaching and allied assistance for weaker sections including SCs, OBCs and Minorities during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Coaching and Allied for STs

No proposal under coaching and allied scheme is pending from the Government of Chhattisgarh.

(c) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.